

CIACO

NID 81 [REDACTED]

August 18, 1981

POLAND: Solidarity Moderation

*There apparently is widespread agreement within the Solidarity leadership that the union should continue to avoid confrontation with the government for the immediate future.* [REDACTED]

Two key union leaders--including an influential militant--told [REDACTED] that the union's main goal now is "to keep the lid on." Both were hopeful that the union could use its great credibility to prevent a restive membership from forcing the leadership's hand in dealing with the government. [REDACTED]

The two officials disagreed about whether there would be a press strike on Wednesday, but agreed that any protest would be limited and nonprovocative. They said that the government probably would try to publish two major papers during the strike by using military presses. This could cause problems, however, because some printers have threatened to obstruct the distribution of any newspapers printed during the strike. [REDACTED]

The union's turn to moderation appears to reflect a desire for a period of tranquility before its congress begins next month and a realization that Poland's acute economic problems are real. Union leaders will be calling for harder work by its members "for the common good" and are prepared to urge their members to accept widespread price increases by the end of the year if consumers are fully compensated. At the same time, Solidarity will continue to press the government into allowing broader self-government and increased self-management. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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